State Of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

Terry Wenzel did not plan on becoming a hero Christmas morning, 1982. He and his family were at LuVerne Anders' farm for Christmas, and it was quite a celebration. In all, there were nine children and six adults in the farmhouse that morning when the fire broke out. Terry tried to put out the fire, but it had already spread to the ceiling and attic. There was no choice but to evacuate the home.

As Terry left the burning home, he brought Kristi, 9, out with him. To everyone's horror, they could not find two children outside, and then screams began to come from the house.

Terry and LuVerne re-entered the burning home to attempt a rescue. LuVerne went to the bedroom and found the two children, but he needed Terry's help to get out. The smoke and fire made it difficult to find the entrance, but Terry's experience as a volunteer fireman in Spearfish proved the crucial difference. He took the children from LuVerne, carried them outside, and then helped LuVerne escape the burning building. Seconds after they were all out, the ceiling collapsed.

True courage is a unique combination of mental perception and physical stamina--a quickness of vision and strength of action. Because Terry possessed both and the willingness to risk his own life, young lives were spared an untimely death.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the valor of

TERRY WENZEL

and I join Terry's family and friends in saluting him for his selfless courage and valor and also in wishing him many Merry Christmases to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Third Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Three

William Janklow

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Alice Kundert

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

BY Jay D. Vogt

JAY D. VOGT, DEPUTY

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